

II. Remarks

Consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-138 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, 18, 22, 31, 32, 42, 50, 54, 60, 70, 76, 80, 84, 86, 104, 121, 128, and 138 are independent.

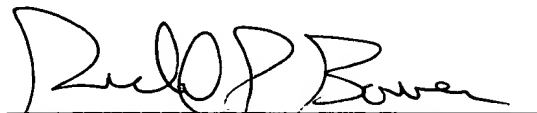
As new Claim 138, Applicants have copied Claim 15 from U.S. Published Patent Application No. 20020198789 A1; Application No. 09/888,352. New Claim 138 is fully supported in the specification and Drawings, and is believed to be allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507.

All correspondence should continue to be directed
to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Duane P. Bower". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Duane" being more prominent.

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